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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Ser. No.:	Filed:	Inventor(s):	Atty Dkt:
09/578,391	25 May 2000	A. Sato	114GI-132 (0694-132)
Title: Blood Vessel Anastomosis Member and Method of Using the Same			
Examiner: Jessica Baxter		Art Unit: 3731	

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

2 Pages Total VIA FACSIMILE
703-872-9306

RESPONSE
and Petition for Extension of Time

Dear Sir:

This Response is made in reply to the final Office Action mailed 4 May 2004.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a two month extension of time to 4 October 2004 in order to respond to the final Office Action mailed 4 May 2004. Please debit Deposit Account No. 502144 for the fee under § 1.17 for the extension of time.

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The withdrawal of the rejection based on Das and Skeie as to the claims, and the objection to claims 5-10 and 16 is gratefully acknowledged.

However, designating the present action as "final" when a new ground of rejection is made, after an interview with the examiner and his supervisor, is believed improper and should be withdrawn.